THE COMMON MOUSE-EAR HAWK-WEED.

(Hieracium Pilosella.)

Class, Syngenesia. Order, Polygamia equalis. N. O., Compositæ.

It belongs to one of the most extensive and natural of all the families of plants ; and is classed in the same tribe as the Dandelion, which we have before noticed. It it a compound flower, having a number of flowrets with ligulate or strap-shaped corollas attached to a tube which contains stamens and pistils, the flowers are inserted on a broad receptacle, and surrounded by an involucre. It is included in the tribe Cichoraceæ, to which the following genera belong, viz. Goatsbeard, Ox-tongue, Picris, Hawkbit, Thrincia, Cat's-ear, Lettuce, Sowthistle, Hawksbeard, Borkhausia, Dandelion, Nipple Wort, and Succory.

The Common Mouse-ear Hawkweed grows like the dandelion, singly on a leafless stalk ; the leaves spread on the ground, in form they are between elliptical and lance-shaped, the edges entire, white, and downy beneath with creeping scyons. The blossom is of a pale lemon colour, it grows on banks and dry pastures, and may be readily distinguished from the others of the same tribe by its

creeping scyons. There are several other species of Hawkweed, but the most common is the Wood one, *(H. sylvaticum.)* They close up their petals like all the plants in this tribe, at certain hours of the day ; therefore

"In every copse and sheltered dell,
  Unveil'd to the observant eye,
Are faithful monitors who tell
  How pass the hours and seasons by.

"The green robed children of the spring
  Will mark the periods as they pass,
Mingle with leaves Time's feathered wing,
  And bind with flowers his silent glass.

"Mark where transparent waters glide,
  Soft flowing o'er their tranquil bed,
There cradled on the dimpling tide
  Nymphæa * rests her lovely head.

"But conscious of the earliest beam,
  She rises from her humid nest,
And sees reflected in the stream
  The virgin whiteness of her breast.

"Till the bright day-star to the west,
  Declines in ocean's surge to lave,
Then folded in her modest vest,
  She slumbers on the rocking wave.

"See Hieracium's various tribe
  Of plumy seed and radiate flowers,
The course of time their blooms describe,
  And wake or sleep appointed hours.

* White Water Lily.